

PATENT
Serial No. 09/963,631
Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action mailed on January 30, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A receiver comprising:

~~means~~ for receiving signals in a frequency band, the frequency band having a plurality of substantially equally spaced and sized frequency channels, each channel comprising a respective plurality of frequency regions, each respective plurality comprising a respective known frequency region in which data signals are most easily detectable; and

~~means~~ for searching the band for at least one channel containing useful data, the searching means being adapted to perform operations, the operations comprising:

~~starting~~ the search with a predetermined

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frequency value, this predetermined frequency value being within the respective known frequency region of a given channel; and

~~a. stepwise scanning segments of the frequency band from the predetermined frequency value in accordance with frequency steps, the frequency steps being substantially equal to the bandwidth of the frequency channels, the segments being frequency sub-bands that are substantially narrower than a channel, so that each step takes the scanning to a particular segment of the frequency band that is contained within the respective known region of a successive channel.~~

12. (Previously Presented) The receiver of claim 11, wherein the predetermined frequency value is based on the last known good signal.

13. (Previously Presented) The receiver of claim 11, wherein the predetermined frequency value is preprogrammed.

14. (Previously Presented) A CATV system comprising a primary

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station and a secondary station, which secondary station comprises a receiver as recited in claim 11.

15. (Currently Amended) A method comprising executing operations in at least one data processing device, the operations comprising:

— receiving signals in a frequency band, the frequency band having a plurality of substantially equally spaced and sized frequency channels, each channel comprising a respective plurality of frequency regions, each respective plurality comprising a respective known frequency region in which data signals are most easily detectable; and

— searching the band for at least one channel containing useful data, the searching comprising:

— starting the search with a predetermined frequency value, this predetermined frequency value being within the respective known frequency region of a given channel; and

— stepwise scanning segments of the frequency band from the predetermined frequency value in accordance with

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frequency steps, the frequency steps being substantially equal to the bandwidth of the frequency channels, the segments being frequency sub-bands that are substantially narrower than a channel, so that each step takes the scanning to a particular segment of the frequency band that is contained within the respective known region of a successive channel.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the predetermined frequency value is based on the last known good signal.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the predetermined frequency value is preprogrammed.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the data processing device comprises a television receiver coupled to a CATV system.